



Trades Recognition Australia

Skills assessment services resulting in an Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR)

Trades Recognition Australia

Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) is the authorised assessing authority for specified technical and tradesperson occupations under *the Migration Regulations 1994*, offering skills assessment services for migration and skills recognition. The purpose of the assessments is to ensure that an applicant can perform at the required skill level for their nominated occupation in Australia. TRA offers assessment services via a number of programmes, depending on the circumstances of the applicant and their desired outcome. These programmes are described briefly below.

i. 457 Skills Assessment programme

The 457 Skills Assessment programme provides skills assessments for applicants for a Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) who are from nominated countries applying in nominated occupations. The program also supports successful applicants in licensed occupations to access licensing once in Australia.

ii. Offshore Skills Assessment programme

The Offshore Skills Assessment programme is a skills assessment pathway for applicants from nominated countries, who are applying in a nominated occupation and require a skills assessment for a permanent migration visa application. The program also supports successful applicants in licensed occupations to access licensing once in Australia.

iii. Optional Skills Assessment Service

The Optional Service is for applicants trained in trades overseas who are not required to have a skills assessment as a migration requirement. Applicants are generally seeking a skills assessment to obtain an occupational licence.

iv. Trades Recognition Service

The Trades Recognition Service (TRS) is a domestic skills assessment service based on recognition of prior learning (RPL). The TRS is for Australian residents who do not hold an Australian vocational education and training (VET) qualification relevant to their trade and have gained their skills outside a formal Australian apprenticeship, or undertaken their trade training overseas. The programme aims to assist those seeking a skills assessment for employability or to access occupational licensing.

The TRS was developed in conjunction with Australian industry to provide a domestic skills assessment service that is:

- fully endorsed, supported and shaped by industry;
- aligned with contemporary skills recognition practices; and
- able to provide valid skills recognition for tradespeople who have gained their skills outside an Australian apprenticeship.

TRS skills assessments are available in the following licensed electrical trades:

- Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic [342111]
- Electrician (General) [341111]
- Electrician (Special Class) [341112]

Skills assessment outcomes

Successful applicants in the licensed trades receive an Offshore Technical Skills Record (OTSR) which can be used to apply for a provisional tradesperson’s licence. Applicants must also meet non-skill licensing requirements. Detailed information about the OTSR and the pathway to licensing is available on the [TRA website](#).

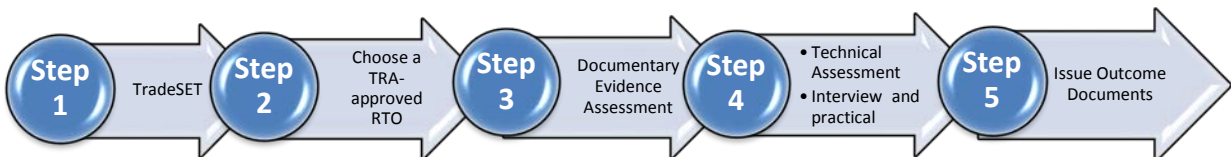
Successful applicants in the non-licensed trades receive an Australian VET qualification (usually a Certificate III).

Unsuccessful applicants will receive a Statement of Attainment issued by the RTO for any competencies achieved and will be able to seek further training as required through RTOs around Australia.

The OTSR assessment process

There are five steps in an OTSR assessment:

- **Step 1:** Complete [TradeSET](#) - a self-evaluation tool.
- **Step 2:** [Choose a TRA-approved RTO](#).
- **Step 3:** Compile documentation which includes evidence of your skills and knowledge for a documentary evidence assessment by the selected RTO.
- **Step 4:** Undertake a technical assessment, which involves a technical interview and practical demonstration by a qualified assessor who is also qualified in the trade being assessed
- **Step 5:** If successful, TRA-approved RTO issues OTSR.



Applicants must still undertake Australian context gap training and a period of supervised employment to be eligible for the Australian VET qualification for their occupation. For information on the registered training organisations (RTOs) who can deliver the Australian context gap training, please contact Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) at 457SkillsAssessment@education.gov.au.